GRADUS SIMEONIS:

OR,

THE FIRST-FRVITS

OF

PHILIP,

Earl of *Pembroke* and *Montgomery*, &c.

[*SOMETIMES*]

KNIGHT of the GARTER: *And*

[*NOW*]

KNIGHT of BERK-SHIRE.

PRESENTED

In a learned Speech upon the Day of his *Ascending downe* into the *Lower* HOUSE of COMMONS.

In the first year of the LORDS Freedome.

Gradus Simeonis, &c.

MAſter Speaker, and worthy Fellow-Members, I am now advanc'd into the Lower Houſe; and am glad I can ſay unto you (as ſometimes did another Worthie of this Houſe) BEHOLD YOUR KNIGHT. I am not aſhamed to be a Knight; my Father was a Knight before me: and why may not a man be a Knight *after* he is a Lord, as well as *before?* I am the firſt Knight that ever You made; Who ſhould make *Knights* but *you* that have the *Sword?* I am a Knight of *your* making, and I hope I am a Knight of *Gods* making. I was *borne* a Knight, and now I am *choſen* a Knight; why ſhould we not be twice Knights, as well as twice Children: The Presbyterian Parliament made me a *Knight Erram*; I was then a Knight of All Shires. I think They were the greater Levellers; for they brought me down to be a Spaniel or Pack-horſe: they could find no uſe for me but to Fetch and Carry. I had *Hobſons* choiſe, either be a *Hobſon* or nothing. I was then a plaine ordinary *Poſt*, but I thank God you have made me a *Knight o'th' Poſt*.

Mr. Speaker, I have been Knight o'th' *Bath*, and Knight o'th' *Garter*, and all manner of Knights; I have been dubd ſo often, that I am now faine to wear a Periwig. You may dub me what you will but a Lord *Capel*; I would be any thing but a *Saint* or a *Martyr*.

Mr. Speaker, I am not very good at Speeches; but had rather make twenty i'th' Lower Houſe here, then one upon the *Scaffold*.

M. Speaker, Reformation goes backward, and Crabs goe backward, all things goe backward, and why ſhould not I goe backward? Now is the time o'th' yeare (you know) for Lobſters. I had rather have gone forward, but we muſt all goe that way the Devill drives. I would ſtill be growing, though it be downwards; why ſhould not old Lords as well as old men be Cowes tailes? I was alwayes a Dunce you know; I uſed to learne my Leſſons over againe i'th'Horne-booke; and why may I not doe it ſo i'th'Heraulds booke? For a Lord to turne Knight is onely to weare his coat the wrong ſide out. It's a hard world now; Lords may be forced to turn their cloathes. Had I not been a Knight, I muſt have been nothing. I was (I knew at a loſſe) in my Lordſhip, and I learnt of my hounds to hunt counter, and caſt about. Would you not have me Mr. Speaker have as much wit as a hound? None took me for a Lord, but onely ſome ſilly people like my ſelfe.

I am ſure on't, I have nothing to ſhew for't but a *Star*; A Horſe for ought I knew was as noble a beaſt as my ſelfe; a Star is but a Star whether it be worn in ones forehead or upon ones ſhoulders. If there was an Earle of *Pembroke*, 'twas my Cloak was guilty, not I. I ne're was ſo much a Gentleman but onely while I ſwore. Since I left my Oathes, God confound me I am no more noble then any Colonel i'th' Army. All my Titles of Honour were but nick-names to me; my long Bill onely made me a Woodcock, and now I have a ſhort one, 'twil perhaps make me but an Owle. My name was ſo long, I had much adoe to remember it. What profit doe Titles bring in? 'tis a faire deale better I hope to be Knight of a *Shire*, then a Knight of a *Garter*; and a *Rope* with *Gregory* at it would become me as well (I think) as a *Blew Ribbon* with a *George*.

Mr.

Mr. Speaker, I have been ſick o'th' *Nobility* ere ſince my Lord of *Holland* wore a night-cap. Pray God a man may be a *Knight* in quiet. I can as well ride with two Horſes, as ſix. Ile goe on foot, or any thing, rather then be carted with one.

God dam me, M. Speaker, I was curſt (I think) to be made an *Earl*. The Devill did it to have me *beheaded*; and I had rather be *hanged*, if I muſt die; that's a dogs death (M. Speaker) and you know I love Dogs. I would I had beene a Brewer, or a Cobler, or any thing but a Lord.

M. Speaker, pray move it that *Michael Oldſworth* may be Earl of *Pembroke*, I have been Lord long enough a conſcience. *Michael* is a man of underſtanding; *Pembroke* and *Montgomery* may be Welſh for ought I know. He has made me a *Knight*; and, what can I doe leſſe then make him a *Lord?* He made me a *Presbyterian*, and he made me a *Viſitor*: and now he has made me as good a Member as himſelfe. He makes my Speeches; and I think I have as good Speeches made for me, as any Lord i'th' Kingdome. He can make me an *Independent*, or a *Leveller*, or any thing as occaſion ſerves. God dam me, he is the beſt maker that ere I had.

Mr. Speaker, I was once i'th' *Tower*, you know, and muſt have gone to *Tower-hill* but for him; and what a mad Earle ſhould I have made with my head off? Some ſay, I am none of the wiſeſt now its on; I have been alive this ſeven yeares, and you know many a wiſer man than I hath gone to pot: They talke of the *Biſhop*, and *Deputy* but and if they were wiſe, I thank God I am a foole.

All Religion is good (Mr. Speaker) and why ſhould not all kinds of Religions be good too? We cannot have

too much Religion; and how can we have too many; I loved the *Common-Prayer*, the *Letanie* ſerved me for *ſwearing*. I love *Presbyterie* too; you know that brought the *Covenant*; and we had no ſwearing a long while before. I love the *Independent* too; why ſhould we not have a pack of Religions, as well as a pack of Dogs? I hope both Presbyter and Independent will concurre and agree; a man may be *both*, I think, as well as *either* of 'em. I can be any thing, and I can be nothing, in *a Parliamentary way*. Though I am a poor Chriſtian, I thank God I am a contented one. I can be a Lord when I can: and I can be a Knight when I cannot otherwiſe chuſe: I am not ſuch a Fool, but that in theſe times I can be a *Changeling* too. *Michael Oldſworth* will inſtruct me, and I am not ſuch a fool neither, but to doe as I am bid. If there ſhould be *a King* againe, I ſhall, perhaps, be begg'd for a *Fool*, but till then I am not ſuch a fool as to be a *Beggar*. I'le be a *Leveller* ſo I may keep my own Eſtate; We ſhall not be Levellers I hope (M. Speaker) among our ſelves.

M. Speaker, I think I can Vote as well as any man: though I am a gooſe I can cackle. *Michael Oldſworth* and I ſhall carry it what ere it be; when he *opens* I ſhall *gape* I warrant; and I hope we are enough to ſet the reſt a *yawning*. I hate diviſion; when I am hunting I love a full cry, I am no ſtragler; I ſhall never leave you till you turne me away. I had not left the Houſe of Lords, had it not left being a Houſe of Lords. 'Twas all a poore Cobwee could doe, to hang till the Houſe was blowne up. Had I *hung* any longer, I might have been *hang'd* for ought I know. But I can be a Cobweb, Mr. Speaker, i'th' *Lower* Houſe as well as in the *Upper*. A Cobweb may be any where but in *Weſtminſter-Hall*.

The

The upper Houſe has been *Viſited* as well as *Oxford*; there are more Earles of *Pembrok* (it ſeemes) beſide my ſelf. FAUX had like to have blown it up, but hang him Traytor, he would not have done it in a *Parliamentary way*. IN A PARLIAMENTARY WAY, I ſay: I'le ſpeak no Treaſon M. Speaker, that's as bad as flinging *Standiſhes*. I could never ſee *Faux* his head, God forgive me, but mine aked preſently. I doe what I can to keep it on; and yet I am afraid one time or other 'twill be looſe i'th' hilts. 'Tis a ſcirvy one, but 'tis better then none. Should I want my *Head*, how ſhould I do to wear a *Periwig*? Let 'em take my Armes, ſo they leave my Head ſafe. Let 'em take *Pembroke* and *Montgomery*, ſo they leave *Philip* and *Herbert*; and let 'em take them too, ſo they leave *Me*. I doe not ſtand upon names: My good name was gone long agoe; and yet I thank God I am a live, and keep Hounds ſtill. One may be a Parliament man I hope without a name; and a Knight without a name.

I ſhall doe excellent well in a *Repreſentative*. I know I can ſit as like an Image (though I ſay't Maſter Speaker) as the beſt i'th' Houſe. I ſhall ſit ſtill, till you make a new *Oath*: A freſh Oath M. Speaker in my judgement would doe very well; But I would have it contrary to all for only Variety is pleaſing to all men.

And now M. Speaker, that I am ſpeaking of Oaths; I remember when I was ſent by your Order to undoe the Univerſity of *Oxford*, according to the Duty of my Place, which I hold there as Chancellour; I met with ſome troubleſome Scholars which talked to me of Conſcience: They could not ſwear, and forſwear themſelves (forſooth) becauſe of Conſcience. Their Conſcience, they ſaid, would not ſuffer them.

M.

M. Speaker, My firſt Motion therefore to this Honourable Houſe, is, That it may be put to a Vote, Whether or no there be any ſuch thing as *Conſcience:* Or, if there be, that then an Act may be made by this Houſe, that no man may be allowed to keep a good Conſcience but the wicked Cavaliers.

For alas! Mr. Speaker, this Conſcience is good for nothing but to make a man a Beggar. Would I have been troubled with it, I had been as poore as any o'th' Kings Lords are now. 'Tis eaſier keeping two or three packs of Dogs, then one good Conſcience, and yet Oatmeale is very dear now God knowes.

Mr. Speaker, I hope 'tis not unlawfull to keed Dogs; Keeping Dogs, Mr. Speaker, is no ſwearing. I love Dogs, and I love the Parliament; I may love Dogs, and yet not love Kings; I muſt love Dogs now, Mr. Speaker, for elſe why was I choſen Knight of *Barkſhire?*

FINIS.